Inglis, Dr. John.

Sept. 18, 1919

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Extracted from XL VIII

September 15th, 1919

Dr. John Inglis,

508 Majestic Building,

Denver, Colorado.

Dear Dr. Inglis:

I have just received your letter and am interested in what you say with regard to the condition of affairs as they were in Toronto when you were an undergraduate and as you find them elsewhere. Of course I am unable to make comparisons, but I can only judge by results. I am told on all hands in the American Universities that there are no better trained students in the Colleges of the Continent than those that come from the University of Toronto, and I know that our best students in Arts can always get fellowships in the leading American Universities. It seems to me that this speaks highly for the training that is given.

With regard to the indolence of the students, it may be that a great many of the students do not work very hard, but one of the features of this University, as you may be aware, is the honours system, and I am confident that those students who study for honours will not find it possible to waste half or two-thirds of their winter session and then do well on their examination. The majority of our students come from homes where they have very little means and have to help put themselves through. It is not likely that students of this class will waste very much of their time.

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There are now quite a large number of Fraternities in Toronto, as in most other Universities of this Continent, and I suppose they differ as to their influence. Some are probably helpful to young men, keeping them from evil companionship, and even stimulating them; in others perhaps a student spends more money than he should and also some of his time.

The showing of our students in the war is I think the best proof that the education of this University is decidedly healthy.

The method of teaching varies in the different classes. In some there is a great deal of tutorial work, which approximates what you mean by recitations; in others there is a great deal of lecturing, but we have attempted to make the classes smaller than they used to be so that there may be more supervision.

My own strong conviction after an experience in other Universities is that our average student in Toronto is as hard working and as well disciplined as those of any institution of which I am acquainted.

Yours sincerely,

President.